



ARK:jsg032601/6711002CIP-3.AMDFOA

Please amend the following claims.

Line By Line Amendment

1. (Third Amendment) A method of treating a waste material containing gelatin comprising:

a) combining the waste material and a solvent for the gelatin to form a first liquid containing gelatin;

b) separating the first liquid into a solvent based layer and a non-solvent based layer; and

c) treating the solvent based layer with a [hot filtering] process [selected from the group consisting of liquid:liquid centrifugation, sub micro/microfiltration, liquid:liquid coalescers, and absorbents and combinations thereof] for separating out any residual oils and particulates from the solvent based layer to form a second liquid containing gelatin having a higher purity than the first liquid.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein [hot filtration] the method is carried out at a temperature of from about 30 to 70°C.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the waste material is combined with the solvent [based layer is diluted] at a dilution volume of up to 5 volumes of said [solvent] waste material.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises removing residual oils and particulates [to] from the solvent based layer to form a filtrate and treating the filtrate to remove at least some of the solvent.

21. (Amended) The method of claim [20] 14 further comprising removing any dyes from the [third liquid] filtrate.

25. (Amended) The method of claim [20] 14 wherein the [third liquid] filtrate contains a softening agent, said method further comprising subjecting the [third liquid] filtrate to short path distillation to form a [fourth] liquid containing gelatin, softening agent and dyes if present.

26. (Amended) The method of claim [21] 14 wherein the [third liquid] filtrate contains a softening agent, said method further comprising subjecting the [third liquid] filtrate to ultrafiltration to remove the softening agent and any dyes therefrom.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
treating the non-solvent based layer by distillation [or reverse osmosis] to remove oily components therefrom.

59. (Amended) The method of claim [58] 13 comprising forming a first recycle stream containing said solvent from the filtrate.

69. (Amended) The [A] method of claim 1 further [treating a waste material containing gelatin] comprising:

- [a) combining the waste material and a solvent for the gelatin to form a liquid containing gelatin;
- b) separating the liquid into a solvent based layer and a non-solvent based layer;
- c) removing residual oils and/or particulates from the solvent based layer to form a second liquid containing gelatin having a higher purity than the first liquid; and
- d)] treating the second liquid by short path distillation to form a third liquid having less solvent than the second liquid.

70. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a waste material containing gelatin comprising:

- a) combining the waste material and a solvent for the gelatin to form a first liquid containing gelatin; and
- b) treating the first liquid with a [hot filtering] process for separating out any residual oils and particulates from the first liquid [selected from the group consisting of liquid:liquid centrifugation, submicro/microfiltration, liquid:liquid coalescers and absorbents and combinations thereof] to form a second liquid containing gelatin having a higher purity than the first liquid.



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Full Text Amendment

1. A method of treating a waste material containing gelatin comprising:
 - a) combining the waste material and a solvent for the gelatin to form a first liquid containing gelatin;
 - b) separating the first liquid into a solvent based layer and a non-solvent based layer; and
 - c) treating the solvent based layer with a process for separating out any residual oils and particulates from the solvent based layer to form a second liquid containing gelatin having a higher purity than the first liquid.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is carried out at a temperature of from about 30 to 70°C.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the waste material is combined with the solvent at a dilution volume of up to 5 volumes of said waste material.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises removing residual oils and particulates from the solvent based layer to form a filtrate and treating the filtrate to remove at least some of the solvent.
21. The method of claim 14 further comprising removing any dyes from the filtrate.

25. The method of claim 14 wherein the filtrate contains a softening agent, said method further comprising subjecting the filtrate to short path distillation to form a liquid containing gelatin, softening agent and dyes if present.

26. The method of claim 14 wherein the filtrate contains a softening agent, said method further comprising subjecting the filtrate to ultrafiltration to remove the softening agent and any dyes therefrom.

44. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
treating the non-solvent based layer by distillation to remove oily components therefrom.

59. The method of claim 13 comprising forming a first recycle stream containing said solvent from the filtrate.

69. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
treating the second liquid by short path distillation to form a third liquid having less solvent than the second liquid.

70. A method of treating a waste material containing gelatin comprising:
a) combining the waste material and a solvent for the gelatin to form a first liquid containing gelatin; and

b) treating the first liquid with a process for separating out any residual oils and particulates from the first liquid to form a second liquid containing gelatin having a higher purity than the first liquid.

Please add the following new claims.

71. The method of claim 1 wherein the process of step (c) is selected from the group consisting of liquid:liquid centrifugation, microfiltration, coalescers, absorbents and combinations thereof.

72. The method of claim 70 wherein the process of step (b) is selected from the group consisting of liquid:liquid centrifugation, microfiltration, coalescers, absorbents and combinations thereof.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted to more clearly set forth the claimed invention and is in direct response to the personal interview conducted with Examiner Popovics on February 26, 2001.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide that step (c) of the process separates out residual oils and particulates which are present in the solvent based layer. New claim 71 sets forth a Markush group of hot filtering processes which carry out this function. New claim 72 is identical in scope to claim 71 and is made dependent on claim 70.